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051412Z Nov 04

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 04 ANKARA 006285

SIPDIS

DEPARTMENT FOR INR/R/MR, EUR/SE, EUR/PD, NEA/PD, DRL
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SUBJECT: ANKARA MEDIA REACTION REPORT

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2004

THIS REPORT PRESENTS THE TURKISH PRESS SUMMARY UNDER THREE
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HEADLINES

MASS APPEAL

More 'hawkish' names for new Bush administration - Aksam
Powell to leave, Rumsfeld stays - Milliyet
Rove, Hughes architects of Bush victory - Sabah
Hillary is US Democrats' new hope - Milliyet
Arafat in coma, Palestine in mourning - Aksam
Fallujah is new Bush Administration's first target -
Milliyet
Fear of Bush causes Tehran to arm Kurds - Hurriyet
Bush's move on Macedonia shakes Athens - Milliyet
Macedonia tension between US, Greece - Sabah
1,800 Turkish troops to Afghanistan in February 2005 -
Hurriyet

OPINION MAKERS

Bush may form new 'war government' - Cumhuriyet
World leaders expect change from Bush - Zaman
World warns Bush - Radikal
Arab world forecasts 'dark clouds' following Bush's
reelection - Yeni Safak
Bush vows to fight until enemy is defeated - Radikal
US a land of conservatives - Radikal
Church wins US Elections - Cumhuriyet
Palestine loses its leader - Zaman
Civil war worries after Arafat - Cumhuriyet
Athens 'outraged' by US recognition of Macedonia - Zaman
Shirin Ebadi to sue US - Radikal
Annan urges swift action for Sudan - Yeni Safak

BRIEFING

Turkish leaders on reelection of President Bush: Turkey
congratulated US President George Bush on his second term in
the White House, pledging support for his war against
terrorism while also stressing the need for global peace.
'I believe our partnership, which is of great value not only
in terms of bilateral ties but also in terms of cementing
peace and security in a vast region, will gain a new
dimension in your second term in office,' President Ahmet
Necdet Sezer said in a message to Bush. PM Tayyip Erdogan
mentioned 'the struggle against terrorism, trans-Atlantic
cooperation, regional stability and the establishment of
harmony between civilizations,' and added that the close
dialogue and cooperation between the two allies will
contribute to global peace, stability and the acceleration
of trans-Atlantic ties. "Cumhuriyet" speculates that if
Bush assigns more 'hawkish' figures to his administration, a
unilateral and aggressive approach may characterize US
foreign policy. Bush's reelection has ruled out a 'worst-
case scenario' for Turkey, which would have been a US
withdrawal from an unstable Iraq after granting wide
autonomy to Kurdish groups, according to "Cumhuriyet." The
Iran issue has been a growing concern for Turkey, but Ankara
does not expect the US to attack Iran. Washington is also
preparing to request a more flexible use by US forces of
allied military bases within the framework of the new US
global defense posture, "Cumhuriyet" reports.

FM Gul on Iraq with Bush president for a second term: FM
Abdullah Gul told "Milliyet" that he expected President
Bush, who has emerged stronger following the US election, to
review some past mistakes and make a new evaluation of the
Iraq issue. Gul noted that the US has grown more open to
international initiatives regarding Iraq. The G-8 will join
the November 28 Iraq's neighbors conference in Cairo,
turning the event into a significant international platform,
he stressed. Gul underlined the importance of Iraq's
territorial integrity: 'Developments such as granting

autonomy for Iraqi Kurds will disturb regional balances and cause enormous problems.' `The Iraqi elections might be postponed, but when they are held they must include all groups in Iraq,' Gul emphasized. He added that Turkey has been trying to convince Sunni Arabs to join the election process. Gul said that Turkey has been advising the US and the Arab League to work to that end in an effort to prevent the Iraqi elections from being `crippled' by a Sunni Arab boycott. If the US Administration does not review its mistakes in Iraq, a democratically elected government in Baghdad will turn against the US, Gul said he has told Washington. A failure to respect local customs, no matter how well-intentioned US aims in the region may be, will create enemies for the Americans in Iraq, Gul noted.

Turkish officials, while in US, allegedly dealt with Bin Laden's men: Opposition CHP lawmaker Kemal Sag has submitted a motion to State Minister Kursad Tuzmen claiming that two Turkish customs inspectors who had been sent to the US for training in 2002 stayed in the house of men close to Osama bin-Laden, several papers report. Sag did not reveal the names of the inspectors, but papers gave their initials as `HG' and `NE.' Both men remain employed at the Treasury Undersecretariat. After finding out that the Turks were staying with Bin Laden's associates, US authorities asked Ankara to recall them to Turkey in 2003, Sag claimed. The Treasury employees have denied the claims, saying it was out of the question that such a thing would be allowed in the US, particularly after September 11.

Tehran arms Kurds in the face of American threat: The Iranian government has decided to arm Kurdish tribes living along Iran's border with Turkey and Iraq as a precautionary measure in the face of a possible attack by the US, "Hurriyet" reports. On Wednesday, Iranian government officials met with Kurdish tribal leaders in the country's Urumiye province. The tribal leaders welcomed Tehran's offer to provide military training for about 250,000 Kurdish `border guards' to be selected from among the local population."

Papadopoulos warns Ankara: Greek Cypriot leader Papadopoulos has warned that if Ankara does not officially recognize Cyprus before the EU summit on December 17, Nicosia could veto an EU decision to grant Turkey a date for entry talks. The Greek Cypriot administration has also urged EU foreign policy chief Javier Solana to ensure a pullout of Turkish troops and immigrants from the Turkish mainland, the opening of Turkish airspace and territorial waters for Greek Cypriot aircraft and vessels, and an end to Turkish vetoes against Nicosia regarding joint defense issues in NATO.

German Greens in Diyarbakir: In Diyarbakir to investigate whether German battle tanks sold to Turkey had been used against the local population in the southeast, Germany's Greens Party leader Claudia Roth said she had seen no evidence to that end. Turkey's EU membership is tightly linked to improvements in Turkey's southeast, where the Kurds constitute a majority, Roth told Turkish papers. Roth later paid a visit to the Habur border crossing with Iraq, and talked with Turkish truck drivers shuttling between the two countries. Turkish drivers are aware of the risks of entering Iraq, and are therefore afraid, Roth said.

EDITORIAL OPINION: US Elections

"Ankara is not Unhappy About Bush's Victory"
Sedat Ergin observed in the mass appeal "Hurriyet" (11/5): "The first 4 years of the Bush administration produced a record of remarkable damage in international relations and a significant weakening of ties between the US and the international community. Had the US chosen the Democratic candidate, there might have been a new chapter in international relations to overcome the mistrust that has built up during the Bush era. . It remains to be seen whether an easing of tension in the international system will be experienced during the second Bush administration. Even though President Bush has already given some signs of change in the new administration, it will not be easy to overcome negative views around the globe. For Turkey, the first Bush administration included a period in which the US sought to pressure Turkey into the Iraqi adventure, then punished Turkey for the rejection of the March 1 parliamentary motion. It also included the infamous Suleymaniye incident on July 4, 2003. Moreover, the first Bush administration presented enormous uncertainty for Turkey to deal with after creating chaos in Iraq, Turkey's next-door neighbor. The relationship between Turkey and the US is still in a process of repair through a series of mutual steps confidence building. The course of bilateral relations in the new period will be determined by the Bush administration's willingness to revise its former approach and to avoid a continuation of flawed policies. . It is a positive thing that President Bush is well aware of Turkey's geo-political importance, and that he has a close

relationship with Turkey's Prime Minister. In any event, it is also realistic to predict that the Iraq issue will be the most perilous point of possible contention in the future of the bilateral relationship."

"Bin Laden Congratulates Bush"

Turker Alkan commented in the liberal-intellectual "Radikal" (11/5): "Ironically enough, Bin Laden played a more important role in Bush's election victory than the American voters. It seems that the Bin Laden video threatening the US made an impact on the voters' choice. Bin Laden most likely did this deliberately, because a hawkish Bush is bound to serve his interests. A war-mongering administration in Washington, engaged in conflicts with Afghanistan and Iraq, and possibly Iran will help the Al-Qaeda terror organization to grow. Yet it remains to be seen whether the second Bush administration will continue its current campaign against terrorism without any change in course. There are two possibilities: Bush might continue the same policy by interpreting his election victory as a vote of confidence, or he might take some significant steps toward pulling out of the Iraqi quagmire. Regardless of the US administration's preference, however, the very negative image of Islam will continue. The murder of the Dutch movie maker Van Gogh seems to be a portent of things to come."

"Is Bush Any Different Now?"

Sami Kohen opined in the mass appeal Milliyet (11/5): "Is Bush going to change? Or, more correctly stated, can George W. Bush change the policies of his first term? During his second term, could we see a different Bush, especially on foreign policy issues? This is a question currently being debated in Turkey and throughout much of the world. Of course, for the time being the answer to this question cannot go beyond a mere guess. We are hoping that in the new era, President Bush's foreign policy approach will be more pragmatic, realistic, and conciliatory instead of aggressive, arrogant, and unilateral. In short, at least for now, the hope is that Bush will be forced to reevaluate his policies based on the negative results. There is no doubt that such change would have a positive effect on Turkey-US relations."

EDELMAN